

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m.
Koinonia Room

Attendance: Teri Sokulski, Meghan Knott, Harley Aalfs, Dion Warne, Brian Henrickson, Cathy Halbritter

Staff: Pr. Amy

Absent: Lori Holmgren, Jan Ruby, Bridget Pederson

Guests: Joel Halbritter, Caleb Hanson

The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Amy.

Joel Halbritter, representing Scout Troop 224, reviewed that Calvary has been the troop's charter organization for 90 years and that a troop cannot operate without a charter organization. In 2018, Scouts BSA began allowing girls to join. Calvary has had two troops as boys and girls have had to have separate troops. Beginning in 2026, Scouts BSA is being rebranded as Scouting America and Calvary will be able to have one troop known as a Family Troop. Joel asked the council for approval to move from two troops to one family troop that is co-ed. Dion moved to authorize the change from two troops to one family troop. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of Agenda - Dion moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of November 11, 2025 Council Minutes - Dion moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approval of November Treasurer's Report - Dion moved to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Pastor Report

Pastor Amy reported on the following items:

1. Advent Update - Christmas program and potluck were well attended. There will be three services on Christmas Eve and a service on Christmas Day in the chapel. The Blue Service and the Little Norwegian service are also coming up.
2. Vacation - Pastor Amy will be on vacation January 1-7. Brother Doug Dockter will cover services on the weekend and Carter will lead Wednesday confirmation. Brother Doug will also be available for any emergencies.
3. Staff reviews - Paula's and Marie's reviews were completed when Pastor Rick was here. Kim Larson will be conducting Pastor Amy's review soon. Kim completed a review with Kim Schow. Naomi's review has been tabled until January due to illness.
4. Thanksgiving offering - Over \$2000 was collected for United for Neighbors. Dion moved to give the money to the Willmar Area Community Foundation for disbursement. The motion was seconded and passed.
5. Internship possibility - Pastor Amy has the information needed for a potential partnership between Calvary and Luther Seminary to be a host site for an internship. The paperwork is due in January. The cost is \$2000/mo. for a full-time intern and \$1000/mo. for part-time.

Discussion of Carlson Funds (moved up from later in the agenda) -

Funds were placed in Calvary's Endowment Fund with the interest to be used for bible camp scholarships. Dion reported that the interest is more than what is needed for camp scholarships. He suggested taking the money out of the endowment so that the money can be used for other purposes (not capital). This will be discussed at the finance board meeting and then further discussed at the January council meeting.

Board Reports

Board of Worship- Cathy reported that board members are needed as one member has resigned and another will be done at the end of May. The board had discussed changing the Saturday chapel service to an earlier time as that was

brought up at coffee with the council. Pastor Amy reported that she has heard that attendees want to keep it at 5:30. Pastor Amy will survey the Saturday attendees to find out the majority's preference.

Board of Faith Formation -Pastor Amy reported that they now have four board members along with two staff members. They will be having their first board meeting on January 19.

Board of Finance- Jan Ruby left a handout since he was not able to attend. The Finance Board has discussed borrowing money to make up for shortfalls.

Board of Stewardship – Caleb Hanson reported that around 100 commitment cards have been turned in with pledges of \$252,000. The board is discussing moving towards a year long approach towards stewardship instead of just in the fall. Discussion of possibly using a professional program. Need to focus on giving not because we have to give but because we want to give. Pastor Amy will contact Pastor Larry Strenge to see if he can meet with the board. The board will also begin giving updates to the congregation in the bulletins.

Special Reports

First Fruits Giving Commitment – This will be on the annual meeting agenda to continue. Reviewed the current list with some suggested changes.

Coffee with Council - Briefly reviewed the November 23 coffee. Dion was in the Koinonia Room and shared that the group tended to prefer the traditional service but wanted better music. There will be no coffee with the council in December but will resume in January.

Unfinished Business

Conference Room Video/Zoom - Waiting for the electrician to complete wiring and then the computer tech will come to complete set up.

Ministry Site Profile Update - It is almost completed, one person needs to finish.

New Business

Change ByLaws for Membership drops - Reviewed a bylaws change that is needed to better reflect Calvary's actual membership data. Dion moved that this change to bylaws be presented at the annual meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Approve Nominating Slate - Dion moved to approve the slate of nominees for the 2026 ballot. The motion was seconded and passed.

Endowment Request - The endowment committee has requested to give \$1500 of the non-restricted Missionary Fund, in the Special Fund account, to Geoffrey & Mallory (Loge) Luzuriaga, along with challenging the congregation to match the \$1500 with offerings when they come and speak at church and do an Adult Forum in January. Megan made a motion. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dion moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.